

The Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task Force: Transboundary Protection of Marine Resources

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Abstract

The Puget Sound/Georgia Basin International Task Force (Task Force) was created under the auspices of the Environmental Cooperation Agreement signed by the Governor of the State of Washington and the Premier of the Province of British Columbia in 1992. The Task Force consists of voluntary representatives from several state, provincial, and federal resource agencies, and it coordinates and collaborates on activities affecting shared marine resources. An early action of the Task Force was to assist an appointed Marine Science Panel to review the status of shared marine resources and make findings and recommendations for their protection. Since the release of the Science Panel's recommendations in 1994, the Task Force has been responding to the highest-priority recommendations. The Task Force, together with several topic-specific Workgroups, has developed technical information on several of the recommendations (exotic species, habitat loss, protection of marine plants and animals, and marine protected areas) and has published several technical reports. The Task Force and Work Groups are also developing strategies and management recommendations to address these high priority issues. We will present information on how technical details are being transformed into management actions, while other papers being presented at this workshop will deal with the specific process for each topic area where this is progressing. The Task Force has also conducted some transboundary work on marine monitoring, strategic planning, and toxic discharges. The Task Force will continue to press ahead on these issues, and, as resources allow, tackle other priority recommendations as well.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada—Science and the New Oceans Act

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Abstract

Canada's federal government has the mandate, granted under the British North America Act (1872) and retained in Canada's 1982 Constitution, to manage marine renewable resources in most nearshore and all offshore waters. The Oceans Act, promulgated in 1997, provides a modern framework for ocean resource management and marine environmental protection in all Canadian waters. The Act's Part II sets out principles to guide the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' management efforts, and it provides basic tools and authorities with which to design and implement the new oceans management process. The Oceans Management Strategy includes sustainable development, management of oceans as ecosystems, integrated management of activities impacting marine waters, and the use of the precautionary approach. The Act, during its formative stages, was strongly influenced by the Department's Science Sector; advice based on scientific research is thus the underpinning of the department's thrust. Initial research initiatives are described.